



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Invites Californians to Join Her in Exploring Golden State's Rich History During Archives Month

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today encouraged Californians to celebrate the state's rich and diverse history as part of the October observance of California Archives Month.

“The California State Archives is a treasure trove of history, telling the tale of who we are as Californians – where we have come from and where we are going,” said Secretary Bowen. “I hope all Californians will join me in exploring the Golden State's fascinating history this month and all year long.”

The Secretary of State's office has been home to the State Archives since 1850. As custodian of the State Archives, Secretary Bowen maintains the complete records of the official acts of the legislative and executive branches of state government, as well as Golden State history in the form of tens of millions of documents, maps, photographs, film and audio recordings and other artifacts.

To celebrate California Archives Month, the State Archives will open its doors for two big events:

- **California State Archives Open House on Saturday, October 6, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Guests will be treated to behind-the-scenes tours of the State Archives and be able to peruse other Sacramento-area archival collections. They will also see the first-ever public unveiling of railroad innovator Theodore Judah's proposed route for the Central Pacific Railroad – a 66-foot-long map dating from 1861. Secretary Bowen and State Archivist Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil will be among the speakers during a brief formal program at 5:30 p.m.
- **Family History Day on Saturday, October 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Guests will have the opportunity to meet with professional genealogists, learn about using state records to research their family trees and obtain tips for preserving cherished family documents. There will be short classes on a variety of genealogy related topics.

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Both events are free and open to the public and will take place at the Secretary of State's State Archives building, 4th floor, 1020 O Street (above The California Museum for History, Women and the Arts) in Sacramento.

The California State Archives hold over 98,400 cubic feet of records in secure, climate-controlled rooms stretching over six floors of a Sacramento building. If the boxes of artifacts were placed end to end, they would stretch some 18 miles. The State Archives employ nearly 30 staffers, including 13 professional archivists.

Among the treasures housed in the State Archives are:

- Original pre- and post-statehood California Constitutions, dating to 1849 and 1879, respectively;
- Spanish and Mexican land grant records;
- Election records and political campaign items dating back to 1849;
- Articles of incorporation for world-famous California companies such as the Central Pacific Railroad;
- More than 400 oral histories, including the recollections of former Governor and President Ronald Reagan, Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Sr. and tax-limiting Proposition 13 proponent Paul Gann;
- Evidence, tapes and photographs from the Los Angeles Police Department investigation of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination;
- 20,000 maps and architectural drawings;
- 7,500 video and audio tapes; and
- 250,000 historical photographs including prison "mug books" from the 1800s and snapshots of the construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge from the 1930s.

For more information about the California State Archives collections and upcoming events, or for assistance in a historical research project, go to <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives>.

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